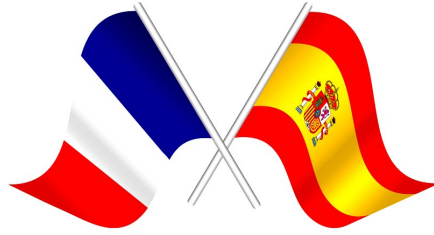


# YEAR 11 BULLETIN

CARING - DETERMINED - REFLECTIVE



## How to prepare for GCSE speaking exams

This week the MFL department explains how to prepare for speaking exams. Speaking exams can be an extremely nerve-wracking experience! Support at home can be so helpful in building students' confidence, alongside the extensive preparation and practice we will be doing in year 11 lessons after Easter.

The speaking exams this year are taking place at the very beginning of May, on the following dates:

- French: Friday 3rd May
- Spanish: Tuesday 7th—Thursday 9th May

### What do they need to do in a speaking exam?

The speaking exam is split into three sections:

- 1) **Role-play:** students receive a card in their preparation time with a role-play scenario which they can prepare. The ? symbol indicates that they will need to ask the teacher a question. The ! symbol indicates that the teacher will ask them something that is not printed on the card.
- 2) **Photo card:** students receive a card in their preparation time with a photo and three questions underneath. They should prepare answers to these three questions. The first one will always be: *What is in the photo?* The teacher will then ask two further questions, based around the same theme, that are not printed on the card.
- 3) **General conversation:** This section covers two themes, one of which the student chooses and the other is randomly allocated. Students have a booklet of questions to prepare and these can be practiced at home as much as possible to give them the best chance of scoring highly.

### Preparing responses to conversation questions

In class, students will receive a booklet of practice role-plays and photcards, plus a list of conversation questions. The first step is to ensure that the answers are as detailed as possible and contain enough language to satisfy the mark scheme. Each answer should contain a minimum of three clauses, there should be plenty of opinions and answers should cover different time frames (past/ present/ future).

### Practicing for the exam

You can ensure that your child has prepared answers to these questions (this will be covered in lessons after Easter) and you can listen to them practice at home. Even if you don't speak French or Spanish, the questions are printed in English and you can have a go! AI tools or Google also have 'read-aloud' features so they could practise with these as well. You cannot practice too much! Confidence is absolutely key.

It is worth noting that revision for the speaking exam is also fantastic preparation for the writing paper, so it's absolutely worth getting this bit right.

If you have any doubts, please contact Mrs Fowler (Head of MFL) or your child's Spanish teacher.

The French Speaking Exam Questions can be found [here](#) and the Spanish Speaking Exam Questions can be found [here](#).

## Resisting Revision?

It is not unusual for parents and carers to be worried over how much revision their child may or may not be doing. It may help to have a conversation over what may be behind their reluctance to settle down to study. The following are some of the common reasons why students may be keeping themselves busy with anything other than their revision.

- **Finding it hard:** Many students find revision hard because they are not using the active revision strategies we have taught in our period 1 programme which are proven to help them understand and remember what they have learnt.
- **Find it boring:** Passive revision (reading & highlighting notes) is boring and ineffective.
- **Being overwhelmed:** If a student doesn't know where to begin, revision can feel too big a task to tackle.
- **Fear of failing:** It is a natural stress response to freeze or to run away from tasks you're not confident you will succeed in and avoiding revision can be the result of this feeling. Some students will also be worrying that they will be letting down parents/carers/teachers and this can overwhelm them.

If you have any concerns regarding the above, please contact the Y11 pastoral team.

### Easter Revision sessions

During the Easter break, we will be offering some additional revision sessions. These sessions are beneficial in addition to the students completing their own independent revision. Even if they haven't returned the reply slip, all students are welcome to attend.

Date	Time	Subject	Room	Details
2-Apr	10:00 - 12:00	Science	R7/R8	The session for higher tier will be in R7 and the session for foundation tier will be in R8.
2-Apr	12:30 - 14:30	History	B17	Revision session focused on content and exam technique. It will be focused on Paper 2 - American West.
2-Apr	09:00 - 16:00	Art	B13	This session is for invited students only and will be contacted separately.
3-Apr	10:00 - 12:00	Geography	B16	Revision session focused on exam technique, primarily on extended writing.
8-Apr	10:00 -14:30	Music	M1-6	All day to focus on exam pieces. Bring lunch.
8-Apr	10:00 - 12:00	Maths	R15, R16, R13	Three sessions will be offered based on their current attainment, currently grade 3, currently grade 4 and currently grade 5 and above
8-Apr	12:30 - 14:30	Business	R 19	Revision session on exam technique and personalised revision
9-Apr	10:00 - 12:00	Spanish	T18	Personalised revision, focus on all four skills with particular emphasis on preparation and practice for the speaking exams.
9-Apr	12:30 - 14:30	French	T18	Personalised revision, focus on all four skills with particular emphasis on preparation and practice for the speaking exams.
10-Apr	10:00 - 14:30	Drama	Drama studio	All day to focus on exam pieces.
10-Apr	10:00 -12:00	English	R18	<b>English Language:</b> Language Paper 2 — technique and timings. <b>English Literature:</b> How to approach extract-style questions.
10-Apr	12:30 - 14:30	Psychology	B5	Revision on exam technique and extended writing.

### What to revise this week?

Tassomai offer free online tutorials. Dates of upcoming sessions and recordings of previous sessions are available [here](#)

**Biology:** 7. Animal coordination and control and homeostasis - [BBC bitesize: Hormones & Homeostasis](#)

**Chemistry:** 5. Groups in the periodic table - [BBC bitesize: Groups in the Periodic Table](#)

**Physics:** 11. Electromagnetic induction - [BBC bitesize : Electromagnetic induction](#)

**Geography:** Development - 4 marker practice - Rev guide p. 78-79

**History:** How Hitler became Chancellor - [resource](#)

**Business Studies:** Theme2.3 Managing stock and working with suppliers. See Teams for resources.

**Psychology:** Psychological problems Key studies: Caspi, Young. Issues and debates: Nature vs nurture - [Psychological problems CB P12-14, P37-39, 42-45](#)

**Sociology:** Studies on affluent workers- Goldthorpe and Devine - Purple book p.100 and your curriculum book

### Apprenticeships

Last week some Y11 students attended a workshop on apprenticeships. For those still interested in pursuing an apprenticeship, Miss Willis recommends the following [website](#). She also reminds students that they must have a back-up plan, such as a college offer, in case an apprenticeship isn't secured for September.